Washington Bonneville Pool Tributaries Adult Spring Chinook 2009 Returns and 2010 Forecasts

Overall

- ❖ The 2009 total return of adult spring Chinook to the Washington Bonneville Pool tributaries was slightly less than the pre-season forecasts.
- ❖ A total of 18,500 adult spring Chinook were predicted to return to the Wind and Klickitat rivers plus Drano Lake in 2009; the actual return was 16,900.
- The three year-old jack returns to all three tributaries were the highest or second highest since at least the 1970s.
- ❖ There have been challenges in recent years forecasting returns to these areas and several new models were explored to predict Wind River and Drano Lake returns for 2010.
- Unlike most upriver spring Chinook returns, the Klickitat River has more of a proven track record and the Yakama Nation used standard regression models for the 2010 forecast.
- ❖ The 2010 pre-season forecast for all three areas is 47,400 adults.
- The majority of the adults returning in 2010 are expected to be four year-olds.

Wind River

- 2009 actual adult return was 4,650; pre-season forecast 6,900.
- ❖ The 1,200 three year-old jacks that returned in 2009 were the second highest since at least 1970 (highest was 1,500 fish in 1971).
- ❖ The 2010 pre-season forecast is 14,000 adults.
- ❖ The 2010 return would be the largest since 2003 and over 300% greater than the recent five year average.

Drano Lake

- ❖ 2009 actual adult return was 10,700; pre-season forecast 9,600.
- The 2009 return was slightly greater than the recent ten year average.
- ❖ The 3,150 three year-old jacks that returned in 2009 were the highest since at least 1970 and 470% greater than the previous high of 664 fish in 1976.
- The 2010 pre-season forecast of 28,900 adults would be the largest since at least 1970 (largest to date is 17,600 adults in 2002).

Klickitat River (forecast provided by the Yakama Nation)

- ❖ 2009 actual adult return was 1,500; pre-season forecast 2,000.
- The 2009 return was slightly less than the recent five year average.
- ❖ The 1,250 three year-old jacks that returned in 2009 were the second highest

- since at least 1977 (highest was 2,900 fish in 1979).
- ❖ The 2010 pre-season forecast is **4,500** adults.
- ❖ The 2010 return would be the second largest since at least 1977 (largest is 5,250 fish in 1989; however, that return included 4,100 four year-old Carson stock adults. The 2010 return would be the largest return of Klickitat only fish).

December 22, 2009 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife